



## News Release

**Virginia Manufacturers Association**

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### **VMA and DEQ Host 2006 Virginia Industry Environmental Conference and 11th Annual Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards**

**RICHMOND** - The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) partnered with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Industry Environmental (VIE) Conference at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. The **11th Annual Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards (GEEA)**, hosted by VMA and DEQ, was held for the fourth consecutive year at the Convention Center.

This year's dynamic 2-day conference included a unique exchange between government and industry, with full participation from DEQ Director David Paylor and his staff, an informative session on legislative processes with members of the General Assembly, insight from both former and current Secretary of Natural Resources, and two fascinating national experts who gave presentations on global climate change. This year's VMA-DEQ Environmental Conference was not only a unique professional development opportunity, but also an excellent chance for networking and relationship building.

The most anticipated event of the conference was the banquet honoring the winners of the **Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards for Manufacturers**, supported by Virginia's Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of Natural Resources, DEQ and VMA Outreach. This award program encourages excellence in environmental management by recognizing achievements that go beyond compliance toward environmental stewardship. Since the inception of this program in 1995, VMA Outreach has facilitated the competition and hosted the presentation of the awards. The reception and awards banquet, held Wednesday evening, were sponsored by VMA Outreach, VMA, Georgia-Pacific Corp. and AEP-Appalachian Power. The Richmond Times-Dispatch featured an article about the [GEE Awards Banquet in the Business Section](#) of its September 14<sup>th</sup> edition.

**The Honorable Bill Bolling, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, gave a special address to the audience, remarking on the truly unique nature of the event that brings together the environmental interests of both industry and government. He noted the eclectic mixture of audience members from both the business and environmental community. Bolling recognized that these two groups continue to have successful cooperation in achieving responsible environmental stewardship through such important partnerships as the GEEA Program, supported and facilitated by the Virginia Manufacturers Association and Department of Environmental Quality.**

Before becoming Lt. Governor, Bolling served in the Virginia Senate where he was very active in promoting both pro-business and environmental legislation. As Lt. Governor, he continues his staunch advocacy of Virginia businesses, especially manufacturing, and continues to encourage the importance of protecting our vital natural resources in Virginia.

Brett Vassey, VMA President and CEO, welcomed the guests and introduced the first speaker for the evening, Lt. Governor Bolling. Evans Drake, Environmental Director for Honeywell and VMA Outreach Chairman, introduced the next speaker, the Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Jr., Secretary of Natural Resources. Secretary Bryant, who serves in the Governor's Cabinet and is known for his many environmental achievements as a Delegate in the General Assembly, was a partner in a Virginia-based engineering and real estate development firm prior to his appointment. He also reiterated the balance that industry and environmental interests have achieved in Virginia, encouraging this important relationship to continue into the future.

Drake then introduced Rick Weeks, DEQ Chief Deputy, who began the awards ceremony. The awards presentations were given by DEQ Director David Paylor, Lt. Governor Bill Bolling, Secretary of Natural Resources Preston Bryant, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources Nicole Rovner and VMA Outreach Chairman Evans Drake. Special recognition was given to the GEE Award Process Coordinator, Marcia Loschiavo, and GEEA Judges: Rick Weeks (DEQ), Mike Ellerbrock (VA Tech), Richard Gouldin (Potomac Supply), Gerry Seeley (DEQ), Sharon Baxter (DEQ), Joe Loschiavo (Dupont Co.), Ike Flory (ODU), Denise Thompson, (VA Municipal League), Harry Gregori (Environmental Solutions, Inc.), and Tedd Jett (retired-Merck).

**This year there were nine GEE Awards presented.** There are two categories for awards based on the size of the organization. The companies with 500 and more employees are considered large and those with fewer than 500 are considered small manufacturers. There are three levels of achievement in the program and project categories - gold, silver, and bronze. There are two additional categories for all companies – environmental product and land management/preservation. GEE Award applications are judged by an independent panel and numerically scored for achievement.

**The 2006 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award recipients are as follows:**

Environmental Projects – Large Manufacturer

Gold (Flag Winner): **Virginia Port Authority – Port of Virginia**

Silver: Smithfield – **Gwaltney of Portsmouth**

Silver: Tysons Foods – **Harrisonburg Processing**

Bronze: Smithfield – **Gwaltney of Smithfield, Ltd.**

Bronze: Smithfield – **Smithfield Ham & Products**

Environmental Programs – Small Manufacturer

Gold (Flag Winner) – **JTEKT Automotive Virginia, Inc. (JAVA)**

Environmental Programs – Large Manufacturer

Gold (Flag Winner) – **Goldschmidt Chemical Corp. – Hopewell Plant**

Silver: Alcoa – **Howmet Hampton Castings**

Land Conservation – Large Manufacturer

Gold (Flag Winner) – **International Paper – Franklin Paper Mill**

**\*Int'l Paper received the highest score in the 11 year history of the awards program!**

For more information on VMA Outreach, the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards for Manufacturers or the Virginia Manufacturers Association, go to [www.vamanufacturers.com](http://www.vamanufacturers.com).